

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /079 W
----- 130979

R 051230Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1546

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L THESSALONIKI 411

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, GR

SUBJECT: LOCAL IMPACT OF AVEROFF ARREST, AND RELATED
DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (1) ATHENS 4490; (2) THESSALONIKI 359

1. ALL THESSALONIKI PAPERS JULY 4 GAVE HEAVY FRONT
PAGE COVERAGE TO GREEK MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ANNOUNCEMENT
PREVIOUS DAY OF ARRESTS LINKED TO ABORTIVE NAVY COUP EFFORT.
MAJOR HEADLINES COVERED ATHENS PRESS RELEASES, FRONT PAGE
PICTURES OF AVEROFF AND GAROUFALIAS, AND LISTS OF ARRESTED
OFFICERS. THUS FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO LOCAL PRESS
COMMENTARY ON SUBJECT.

2. EVENING RECEPTION MARKING GREEK NAVY WEEK HELD ABOARD
DESTROYER LONHI WAS SPARSELY ATTENDED BY LEADING MILITARY
OFFICIALS IN THESSALONIKI, POSSIBLY DUE TO ZAGORIANAKOS
VISIT (BELOW). RANKING "C" CORPS OFFICER PRESENT
WAS PROTOCOL COLONEL, WHILE OTHER LIGHT MILITARY PRESENCE
HEADED BY RETIRING MAJOR GENERAL COMMANDING HIGHER WAR
COLLEGE AND NEW BRIGADIER CHIEF OF 100TH MILITARY COMMAND. ON OTHER
HAND, DISTRICT GOVERNOR ANASTOSPOULOS WAS PRESENT AS
WAS GOG-SUPPORTING METROPOLITAN LEONIDAS. ATMOSPHERE WAS
DISTINCTLY SUBDUED, HOWEVER, AND HOST STATED LESS THAN ONE-
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THIRD OF INVITEES APPEARED.

3. FORMER COMMANDER OF WAR COLLEGE AND PRESENT GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER AT THESSALONIKI UNIVERSITY ALLEGED THAT GREATER PART OF NAVY OFFICERS ARRESTED WERE NOT IN ACTIVE COMMAND OR SHIPBOARD BILLETS AND THEREFORE OPERATING EFFECTIVENESS OF GREEK NAVY NOT RPT NOT SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY ARRESTS. (FOR ANOTHER VIEW SEE REF 2)

4. ARMY CHIEF DEMETRIOS ZAGORIANAKOS SPENT JULY 4 HERE IN CONSULTATION WITH MILITARY COMMANDERS, ALMOST ALL OF WHOM REGRETTED INDEPENDENCE DAY RECEPTION INVITATION ON GROUNDS URGENT OFFICIAL BUSINESS. (NORMALLY THEY TURN OUT EN MASSE.) ONE USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE SAYS REAL PURPOSE ZAGORIANAKOS VISIT WAS TO INSPECT TROOPS AND "REASSURE" UNITS THIS AREA IN WAKE OF ARRESTS AND MINISTRY OF DEFENSE ANNOUNCEMENT.

5. IN SOMEWHAT RELATED VEIN, ANOTHER SOURCE WHO HAS BEEN ACCURATE IN PAST INFORMS US THAT POLICE NOW HAVE ORDERS TO ORGANIZE CAMPAIGNS DIRECTED NOT ONLY TOWARD JULY 29 REFERENDUM, BUT TO 1974 ELECTIONS AS WELL. PROGRAM WOULD BE ALONG GENERAL LINES OF 1961 "OPERATION PERICLES" FOR KARAMANLIS, SOURCE STATES, AND SHIFTS ARE ALREADY UNDER WAY TO PLACE KEY POLICE OFFICERS STRATEGICALLY TO GENERATE SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT-BACKED CANDIDATES. (HE GAVE AS EXAMPLE IMPENDING TRANSFER OF ALIENS POLICE CHIEF HERE, LT. COL. IOANNIS DOTSIKAS, TO CHIEF OF POLICE POSITION IN LAMIA, WHICH WE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF PREVIOUSLY.)

6. SAME SOURCE STATED THAT DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO NORTHERN GREECE (THESSALONIKI'S 375 PARA 4) DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PATTAKOS HAD TOLD HIM PERSONALLY THAT WHILE HE AND MAKAREZOS WOULD LEAVE THEIR PRESENT POSITIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT TEMPORARILY, THEY WOULD BOTH RETURN SHORTLY THEREAFTER IN OTHER HIGH CAPACITIES.
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